University of North Texas at Dallas  
Spring 2020  
SYLLABUS for Distance Learning  

**SOCI 3200: Sociological Theory 3Hrs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department of</th>
<th>Sociology &amp; Psychology</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instructors</td>
<td>Dr. Steven L. Arxer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Founder's Hall, Room 201E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>972-338-1592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Steven.Arxer@untdallas.edu">Steven.Arxer@untdallas.edu</a></td>
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</table>

**Office Hours:** Preferred method of communication: Email Response time back to email is 48 hours. Virtual Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 8-10am. Face-to-Face Office hours: T/TH 9-10am by appointment. *Not available on Saturday and Sundays, and weekdays after 10 PM or by appointment*

*Please check your UNT Dallas email. I regularly send announcements and information to official student email accounts.*

**Classroom Location:** Online  
**Class Meeting Days & Times:** Online

**Course Catalog Description:** Survey of development of sociological theory; emphasizes nature and types of contemporary theory.

**Prerequisites:** SOCI 1510 or equivalent

**Required Text:** Title: *Introduction to Sociological Theory* 2nd edition  
Author: Michele Dillon

*TB: Textbook Chapters  
*Canvas: Canvas readings

**Access to Learning Resources:**  
UNT Dallas Library:  
phone: (972) 780-1616  
web: [http://www.untdallas.edu/library](http://www.untdallas.edu/library)  
email: library@untdallas.edu

UNT Dallas Bookstore:  
phone: (972) 780-3652  
web: [http://www.untdallas.edu/bookstore](http://www.untdallas.edu/bookstore)  
e-mail: untdallas@bkstr.com

**Course Goals or Overview:** The goals of this course are as follows -

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the range classical and contemporary sociological theories and perspectives. Key to this course will be examining the epistemological and ontological assumptions underpinning sociological theories. This goal will be accomplished by emphasizing how sociological theories view the nature of individual, social order, and their interrelationship.

**Learning Objectives/Outcomes:** At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify assumptions underlying theoretical arguments  
2. Identify limitations of theoretical arguments  
3. Understand alternative viewpoints on social scientific issues  
4. Describe how theory contributes to sociological knowledge
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics/Readings/Links</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
<th>SLO</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Links: Defining Sociology and the Sociological Imagination <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2OyXx9yjk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2OyXx9yjk</a></td>
<td>2. Discussion Board 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is Sociology? <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBLBIm5ruMw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBLBIm5ruMw</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>TED Talk: The Wisdom of Sociology <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWD6g9CV_sc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWD6g9CV_sc</a></td>
<td>1, 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TB: Michele Dillon, “Introduction”</td>
<td>1. Discussion Board 2</td>
<td>1, 3, 4, 6</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Links: The Importance of Auguste Comte <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbHw-TeUrv4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbHw-TeUrv4</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Comte’s Law of 3 Stages <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEtm7u9mRtY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEtm7u9mRtY</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>TB: Michele Dillon, “Chapter 1: Karl Marx” Canvas: “Free Labor: Producing Culture for the Digital Economy”</td>
<td>1 Discussion Board 3</td>
<td>1, Original Post 1/29 by 11:59 PM and Reply</td>
<td>1, 2, 5, 6, 7</td>
</tr>
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Links:
8-Bit Philosophy: Karl Marx
http://youtu.be/Vz3eOb6Y11s

Wealth Inequality in America
http://youtu.be/QPKKQnijnsM

Digital Labor and Karl Marx
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tpN7YPXz1Z8

What is Digital Labor
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KCyMxX1gTLM

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<tr>
<th>2. Assignment #1</th>
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<tr>
<td>2. 2/2 by 11:59pm</td>
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**Week 4- February 3-9: Classical Foundations—Functionalism, Social Facts and Solidarity**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Discussion Board 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Original Post 2/5 by 11:50 PM and Reply Post 2/9 by 11:50 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Assignment #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. 2/9 by 11:59 PM</td>
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**EXAM 1: Opens February 7th (12 am)/ Closes February 10th (11:59 pm)**

| 1. Original Post 2/5 by 11:50 PM and Reply Post 2/9 by 11:50 PM |
| 2. 2/9 by 11:59 PM |

**Week 5- February 10-16: Classical Foundations—Rationality, Bureaucracy, and Religion**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Discussion Board 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Original Post 2/12 by 11:59 PM and Reply Post 2/16 by 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Writing Assignment #3</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, 2, 5, 6, 7</td>
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**TB: Michele Dillon, “Chapter 3: Max Weber”**

CANVAS: “The McDonaldization of Society”

Links:
Rationalism and Bureaucracy
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TypEb0tbFho

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dP2Sa9raZdY&list=PLdqh3iVhzW1QIrvtG12OS_0h7u8tHpOKh&index=7

Bureaucracy and Film:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 6- February 17-23: Expanding Foundation—Critical Theories</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TB: Michele Dillon, “Chapter 5: Critical Theory, Technology, Culture and Politics”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Links: Theodore Adorno and Consumer Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consumerism and Politics Today: No Logo film</td>
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<tr>
<th>1. Discussion Board 6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Original Post 2/19 by 11:59 PM and reply Post 2/23 by 11:59 PM</td>
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<td>1, 2, 5, 6, 7</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 7- February 24-March 1: Expanding Foundation—Power and Dependency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TB: Michele Dillon, Chapter 6 Conflict, Power and Dependency in Macro-Societal Processes CANVAS: “The Power Elite”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Links: C. W. Mills—The Power Elite</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interlocking Directorates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income Inequality--PBS</td>
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<tr>
<th>1. Discussion Board 7</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Original Post 2/26 by 11:59 PM and Reply Post 3/1 by 11:59 PM</td>
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<td>1, 2, 5, 6, 7</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 8- March 2-8: Structural Functionalism</th>
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<tr>
<td>TB: Michele Dillon, “Chapter 4 Talcott Parsons and Robert Merton: Functionalism and Modernization”</td>
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<tr>
<th>1. Discussion Board 8</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Original Post 3/4 by 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, 2, 5, 6, 7</td>
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</table>
CANVAS: “Some Principles of Stratification: A Critical Analysis”

Links:
Structural Functionalism and Talcott Parsons
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HhPH3piqLVQ

Robert Merton’s Strain Theory
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3yQyA-hfys

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**Week 9: Spring Break, March 9-15**

**EXAM 2: Opens March 13th (12 am)/ Closes March 17th (11:59 pm)**

**Week 10- March 16-22: Symbolic Interactionism—Mind, Self and Society**

TB: Michele Dillon, “Chapter 8: Symbolic Interactionism”
CANVAS: “Barbie Dolls and Sea Monsters”

Links:
What is Symbolic Interactionism?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jFQIIM8IRZU

Erving Goffman and Social Scripts
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Qe5TI__DU

Erving Goffman and Stigma:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= jz7yo7L3Z0

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**Week 11- March 23- 29: The Social Construction of Reality**

1. Discussion Board 9
2. Writing Assignment #5
4. 3/22 by 11:59 PM

1, 2, 5, 6, 7
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 12- March 30th-April 5: Contemporary Theories of Power and Oppression—Feminist Theories</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **TB:** Michele Dillon, “Chapter 10: Feminist Theories”  
**CANVAS:** “Hybrid Hegemonic Power”  
 | **1.** Discussion Board 10  
 **2.** Writing Assignment #6  
 **3.** Original Post 4/1 by 11:59 PM and Reply Post 4/5 by 11:59 PM  
 | **1, 2, 5, 6, 7** |
| **Links:**  
Gender Performativity, Judith Butler  
[http://youtu.be/Bo7o2LYATDc](http://youtu.be/Bo7o2LYATDc)  
Emotion Work and Emotion Labor  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOj-0fm79AA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOj-0fm79AA)  
Gender Inequality—TED Talks  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7n9IOH0NvY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7n9IOH0NvY)  
 | **EXAM 3: Opens April 3rd (12 am)/ Closes April 6th (11:59 pm)**  
**Week 13- April 6-12: Contemporary Theories: The Body and Control**  
 | **1.** Discussion Board 12  
 **2.** Original Post 4/8 by 11:59 PM and Reply Post 4/12  
 | **1, 2, 5, 6, 7** |
| **TB:** Michele Dillon, “Chapter 11 Michel Foucault: Theorizing Sexuality, the Body and Power”  
 | **Links:**  
Discipline and Punish—Michel Foucault  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ci61KBsZVbl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ci61KBsZVbl)  
State of Surveillance  
 | **Exam 3: Opens April 3rd (12 am)/ Closes April 6th (11:59 pm)**  
**Week 13- April 6-12: Contemporary Theories: The Body and Control**  
 | **1.** Discussion Board 12  
 **2.** Original Post 4/8 by 11:59 PM and Reply Post 4/12  
 | **1, 2, 5, 6, 7** |
### Week 14 - April 13-19: Contemporary Theories of Power and Oppression—Theories of Race and Racism

**TB:** Michele Dillon, “Chapter 12: Race, Racism and the Construction of Racial Otherness”  
**CANVAS:** “How Jews Became White Folk”

**Links:**
- Race as a Myth?  
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnfKgffCZ7U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnfKgffCZ7U)
- Race and Inequality  
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WiConeatM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WiConeatM)

1. Discussion Board 13
2. Writing Assignment #7
3. Original Post 4/15 by 11:59 PM and Reply Post 4/19 by 11:50 PM
4. 4/19 by 11:59 PM

### Week 15 - April 20-26: Contemporary Grand Theories

**TB:** Michele Dillon, “Chapter 13 The Social Reproduction of Inequality: Pierre Bourdieu’s Theory of Class and Culture”

**Links:**
- Cultural Capital  
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5DBEYiBkgp8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5DBEYiBkgp8)
- Social Capital and Success  
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ncqTRl9cdn4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ncqTRl9cdn4)

1. Discussion Board 14
2. Original Post 4/22 by 11:59 PM and Reply Post 4/26 by 11:59 PM

### Week 16 - April 27-May 3: Globalization

**TB:** Michele Dillon, “Chapter 15 Globalization”  
**CANVAS:** “The Globalization of Crime”

**Links:**
- Globalization and Sports  
- Durkheim and Merton on Globalization  

1. Discussion Board 15
2. Original Post 4/29 by 11:59 PM and Reply Post 5/3 by 11:59 PM
Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

**Biographical Introduction**—10 points

**Discussion Posts**—150 points (10 points each)
We will have 15 online, asynchronous graded discussions over the course of the semester worth 10 points each. Discussions will draw from the posted links that include videos and short readings. Your original posting should be about 1-2 paragraphs long or about 250-300 words and include the creative and relevant use of sociological concepts from course materials. Be sure to provide specific examples. Your post should also use appropriate spelling and grammar. In addition to the original post, each you must make a reasoned reply or reaction to at least two of your classmates’ postings during each class discussion, each reply post should be around 50-75 words. Links to each discussion board are posted on the course Canvas site. The link is located in your course Modules as well as in the Discussion link on the main menu. Your initial post will on a particular day and should address the initial question posted. Your second post will be within two days after your initial post and should include at least two responses to two different classmates’ original posts.

**Writing Assignments**—140 points (20 points each)

You will be required to complete 7 writing assignments based on readings posted on Canvas. Directions and the Turnitin submission link for each assignment are posted on the course Canvas site under “Writing Assignments” on the main Canvas navigation panel. These writing assignments are intended to measure your ability to apply a range of course concepts to the assigned videos through responding cogently to the prompts. Assignments should be between 2-3 pages in length, 1-inch margins, New Times Roman, 12 point font.

**Exams**—200 points (50 points each)

There are 4 exams in this course. Exams will consist of 40 multiple choice questions. It will draw from the assigned course textbook chapters. Exams can be found in the menu link titled “Exams”. Scheduled times for each exam are listed in the course schedule. There will be a time limit and the exams will not allow for multiple attempts. Students will have 80 minutes to complete each exam.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Matrix:</th>
<th>Activities/Assignments</th>
<th>Value (percentages)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biographical Introduction (1)</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Posts (15)</td>
<td>150 points (10 pts each)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Writing Assignments (7) | 140 points (20 pts each)  
Exams (4) | 200 points (50 pts each)  
Total: | 500 points  

Grade Determination
A = 90% or better (450-500 points)  
B = 80 – 89 % (400-449 points)  
C = 70 – 79 % (350-399 points)  
D = 60 – 69 % (300-349 points)  
F = less than 60%(299- fewer points)

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

Chapter 7(7.004) Disability Accommodations for Students

The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Disability Services Office website at http://www.untdallas.edu/disability. You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at UNTDdisability@untdallas.edu or at Building 2, room 204.

Canvas Learn Accessibility Statement:
University of North Texas at Dallas is committed to ensuring its online and hybrid courses are usable by all students and faculty including those with disabilities. If you encounter any difficulties with technologies, please contact our ITSS Department. To better assist them, you would want to have the operating system, web browser and information on any assistive technology being used. Canvas course management system's accessibility statement is also provided: http://www.Canvas.com/Platforms/Learn/Resources/Accessibility.aspx

NOTE: Additional instructional technology tools, such as Turnitin, Respondus, Panopto, and publisher cartridge content (i.e. MyLab, Pearson, etc.) may NOT be fully ADA compliant. Please contact our Disability Office should you require additional assistance utilizing any of these tools.

Course Evaluation Policy:
Student’s evaluations of teaching effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider students’ evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy: (According to the instructor’s discretion while working in concert with the division/program’s guidelines).

Exam Policy: (Online exams and the ability to retake is solely at the instructor’s discretion). NOTE: Online exams may be proctored on campus per instructor’s discretion.

Academic Integrity:
Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University’s code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University’s policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at http://www.untdallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf for complete provisions of this code.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.

Web-based Plagiarism Detection: Please be aware in some online or hybrid courses, students may be required to submit written assignments to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism detection service, or another method. If submitting to Turnitin, please remove your title page and other personal information.

**Classroom Policies**

**Online Attendance and Participation:**

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance in the Canvas classroom and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience, and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in the discussion board. Online presence and participation in all class discussions is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency.

Attendance for this online or hybrid course is considered when you are logged in and active in Canvas, i.e., posting assignments, taking quizzes, or completing Discussion Boards. To maintain financial aid award eligibility, activity must occur before the census date of the session or term of the course. Refer to http://www.untdallas.edu/registrar for specific dates. If you are absent/not active in the course shell, it is YOUR responsibility to let the instructor know immediately, upon your return, the reason for your absence if it is to be excused. All instructors must follow university policy 7.005 covering excused absences; however, it is the instructor’s discretion, as outlined in the course syllabus, of how unexcused absences may or may not count against successful completion of the course.

**Inclement Weather and Online Classes:** Online classes may or may not be effected by campus closures due to inclement weather. Unless otherwise notified by your instructor via e-mail, online messaging, or online announcement, students should assume that assignments are due as scheduled.

**Online “Netiquette:**

In any social interaction, certain rules of etiquette are expected and contribute to more enjoyable and productive communication. Emails, Discussion Board messages and/or any other forms of written communication in the online environment should use proper “netiquette” (i.e., no writing in all caps (usually denotes yelling), no curse words, and no “flaming” messages (angry, personal attacks).

Racial, ethnic, or gender slurs will not be tolerated, nor will pornography of any kind.

Any violation of online netiquette may result in a loss of points or removal from the course and referral to the Dean of Students, including warnings and other sanctions in accordance with the University’s policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Student Rights Responsibilities and Conduct at http://www.untdallas.edu/osa/policies. Respect is a given principle in all online communication. Therefore, please be sure to proofread all of your written communication prior to submission.

**Diversity/Tolerance Policy:**

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions in the online environment. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate.
**Technology Requirements:** In order to successfully access the materials in an online or hybrid course, UNT Dallas advises that your computer be equipped with the minimum system requirements.

Canvas Learn 9.1 is the platform software for this course. Canvas Learn supports major web browsers such as Windows Internet Explorer, Apple Safari, Mozilla Firefox, and Google Chrome. However, since the latter two are updated continually, some recent versions may not be compatible. If you experience difficulty accessing or using components of the course, try using Internet Explorer. Also, no matter what browser you use, always enable pop-ups. For more information see:

- [http://www.untdallas.edu/dlit/ecampus/requirements](http://www.untdallas.edu/dlit/ecampus/requirements)
- [https://Canvas.secure.force.com/publickbarticleview?id=kAB700000008Oom](https://Canvas.secure.force.com/publickbarticleview?id=kAB700000008Oom)
- [https://learn.unt.edu/Canvascswebdav/institution/BrowserCheck/check_full.html](https://learn.unt.edu/Canvascswebdav/institution/BrowserCheck/check_full.html)